ADDRESS READ BY MR. T. GURU RAO, ON BEHALF OF THE NORTH MYSORE NATIVE PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION.

5TH OCTOBER 1906.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY.

I, on behalf of North-Mysore Native Planters' Association welcome you sir, as Dewan of our Province and wish you all success. I am instructed to place before you, sir, for your favorable considerations, the following few points.

(1) The minimum acreage granted for the cultivation of coffee at present is 15 acres. Coffee industry has been deteriorating. Consequently it is very hard on the part of the poorer classes residing in the Malnad tracts to procure Rs. 150 for the purchase of the minimum acreage and also a larger amount to work up the place. To bring 15 acres into bearing it will cost Rs. 300 in the least. Thus a large outlay of Rs. 450 is required by the poorer classes. In these hard days it is almost impossible to procure such a large amount. In 1888 on requisition by the planters the minimum acreage was reduced to 5 acres. It is a matter for regret that it was again raised to 15 acres without any consideration being given to the interests of the indigenous planters. I now request you sir to kindly grant our prayer and reduce the minimum to five acres.

(2) As stated above the coffee industry is on the decline. I again beg to lay before you, sir, for your kind consideration, that the upset price on coffee lands be reduced from Rs. 10 to Rs. 5.

In conclusion I thank you, sir, for remembering our interests also at the last rubber conference. In this connection I beg to bring to your august notice that instructions may be issued to the District and Taluk authorities in Malnad places, for bringing to the knowledge of the raiyats, the utility of planting rubber and also for distributing the different kinds of rubber seeds suited for different localities by way of encouragement.

T. GURU RAO.